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10
11 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
12 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA
13 TUCSON DIVISION

14 Donald MacMillan, Individually and on
15 Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

16 Plaintiff,

17 v.

18 PWP Tucson, LLC,

19 Defendant.

NO. 4:21-cv-

**ORIGINAL COMPLAINT—
COLLECTIVE ACTION**

20 Plaintiff Donald MacMillan (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all others
21 similarly situated, by and through his attorney Courtney Lowery of Sanford Law Firm,
22 PLLC, for his Original Complaint—Collective Action (“Complaint”) against Defendant
23 PWP Tucson, LLC (“Defendant”), he states and alleges as follows:

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENTS

24 1. This is a collective action brought by Plaintiff, individually and on behalf
25 of all others similarly situated, against Defendant for violations of the overtime
26

1 provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201, *et seq.* (the “FLSA”), and
2 minimum wage provisions of the Arizona Revised Statutes (“A.R.S.”).

3 2. Plaintiff seeks declaratory judgment, monetary damages, liquidated
4 damages, costs, and a reasonable attorneys’ fee, as a result of Defendant’s policy and
5 practice of failing to pay Plaintiff and others similarly situated sufficient minimum
6 wages under the FLSA and the A.R.S. within the applicable statutory limitations period.
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8 3. Upon information and belief, within the three years prior to the filing of
9 the Complaint, Defendant has willfully and intentionally committed violations of the
10 FLSA as described, *infra*.
11

12 II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

13 4. The United States District Court for the District of Arizona has subject
14 matter jurisdiction over this suit under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because this
15 suit raises federal questions under the FLSA.
16

17 5. This Complaint also alleges Arizona state law violations, which arise out
18 of the same set of operative facts as the federal cause of action; accordingly, this Court
19 has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff’s state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §
20 1367(a).
21

22 6. Defendant conducts business within the State of Arizona.

23 7. Venue lies properly within this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) and
24 (c)(2), because the State of Arizona has personal jurisdiction over Defendant, and
25 Defendant therefore “resides” in Arizona.
26

1 8. The acts complained of herein were committed and had their principal
2 effect against Plaintiff within the Tucson Division of the District of Arizona. Therefore,
3 venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

4 **III. THE PARTIES**

5 10. Plaintiff is an individual and resident of Pima County.

6 11. Defendant is a domestic limited liability company.

7 12. Defendant's registered agent for service of process is Mamie Cary at 6462
8 East 22nd Street, Tucson, Arizona 85710.
9

10 **IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

11 13. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all previous paragraphs of this Complaint
12 as though fully incorporated in this section.
13

14 14. Defendant owns and operates Papa John's franchises in Pima County.

15 15. Defendant's annual gross volume of sales made or business done was not
16 less than \$500,000.00 (exclusive of excise taxes at the retail level that are separately
17 stated) during each of the three calendar years preceding the filing of this Complaint.
18

19 16. During each of the three years preceding the filing of this Complaint,
20 Defendant employed at least two individuals who were engaged in interstate commerce
21 or in the production of goods for interstate commerce, or had employees handling,
22 selling, or otherwise working on goods or materials that had been moved in or produced
23 for commerce by any person, such as vehicles, fuel and goods or materials typically used
24 in the fast-food industry.
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1 17. Defendant employed Plaintiff within the three years preceding the filing
2 of this lawsuit.

3 18. Specifically, Defendant employed Plaintiff as an hourly-paid Delivery
4 Driver from approximately July of 2021 until October of 2021.

5 19. Defendant also employed other hourly-paid Delivery Drivers within the
6 three years preceding the filing of this lawsuit.

7 20. At all relevant times herein, Defendant directly hired Plaintiff and other
8 Delivery Drivers to work on its behalf, paid them wages and benefits, controlled their
9 work schedules, duties, protocols, applications, assignments and employment
10 conditions, and kept at least some records regarding their employment.

11 21. At all times material herein, Plaintiff has been entitled to the rights,
12 protections and benefits provided under the FLSA.

13 22. Defendant classified Plaintiff as nonexempt from the overtime provisions
14 of the FLSA.

15 23. Defendant also classified other Delivery Drivers as nonexempt from the
16 overtime provisions of the FLSA.

17 24. Upon information and belief, Defendant applies or causes to be applied
18 substantially the same employment policies, practices and procedures to all Delivery
19 Drivers at all of their locations, including policies, practices, and procedures relating to
20 payment of minimum wages and reimbursement of automobile expenses.
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1 25. Defendant is an “employer” within the meaning set forth in the FLSA, and
2 was, at all times relevant to the allegations in this Complaint, Plaintiff’s employer, as
3 well as the employer of the members of the proposed collective.

4 26. Plaintiff and the other Delivery Drivers at Defendant’s restaurants work
5 “dual jobs.” Specifically, they deliver food to Defendant’s customers and receive tips,
6 and they also work inside the store completing nontipped duties.

7 27. Defendant paid Plaintiff and other Delivery Drivers less than the Arizona
8 minimum wage per hour for all hours worked. In other words, Defendant takes
9 advantage of the “tip credit” provision of A.R.S. § 23-363(c).
10

11 28. Defendant requires Delivery Drivers to maintain and pay for operable,
12 safe, and legally compliant automobiles to use in delivering Defendant’s pizza and other
13 food items.
14

15 29. Defendant requires Delivery Drivers to incur and/or pay job-related
16 expenses, including but not limited to automobile costs and depreciation, gasoline
17 expenses, automobile maintenance and parts, insurance, financing, cell phone costs, and
18 other equipment necessary for Delivery Drivers to complete their job duties.
19

20 30. Pursuant to such requirements, Plaintiff and other Delivery Drivers
21 purchased gasoline, vehicle parts and fluids, automobile repair and maintenance
22 services, automobile insurance, suffered automobile depreciation, paid for automobile
23 financing, and incurred cell phone and data charges all for the primary benefit of
24 Defendant.
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1 31. Defendant does not track Plaintiff's or other Delivery Drivers' actual
2 expenses nor does Defendant keep records of all of those expenses.

3 32. Defendant does not reimburse Plaintiff and other Delivery Drivers for
4 their actual expenses.

5 33. Defendant does not reimburse Plaintiff and other Delivery Drivers at the
6 IRS standard business mileage rate.

7 34. Defendant does not reimburse Plaintiff and other Delivery Drivers at a
8 reasonable approximation of Delivery Drivers' expenses.

9 35. Defendant reimburses Plaintiff and other Delivery Drivers at a flat rate per
10 delivery at \$1.20 per delivery.

11 36. According to the Internal Revenue Service, the standard mileage rate for
12 the use of a car during the relevant time periods has been as follows:

13 2018: 54.5 cents/mile
14 2019: 58 cents/mile
15 2020: 57.5 cents/mile
16 2021: 56 cents/mile

17 37. As a result of the automobile and other job-related expenses incurred by
18 Plaintiff and other similarly situated Delivery Drivers, they were deprived of minimum
19 wages guaranteed to them by the FLSA.

20 38. At all relevant times, Defendant has applied the same pay policies,
21 practices, and procedures to all Delivery Drivers at their stores.

22 39. All of Defendant's Delivery Drivers were subject to the same
23 reimbursement policy; received similar reimbursements; incurred similar automobile
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1 expenses; completed deliveries of similar distances and at similar frequencies; and were
2 paid less than the applicable minimum wage rate before deducting unreimbursed vehicle
3 costs.

4 40. Regardless of the precise amount of the per-delivery reimbursement at any
5 given point in time, Defendant's reimbursement formula has resulted in an unreasonable
6 underestimation of Delivery Drivers' automobile expenses throughout the recovery
7 period, causing systematic violations of the minimum wage laws.
8

9 41. Defendant charges customers a delivery fee separate from the food charge,
10 but the delivery charge is not paid to the driver per the Papa John's website
11 (www.papajohns.com).
12

13 42. Plaintiff generally completed approximately 3 to 4 deliveries per hour
14 while working as a Delivery Driver (averaging 3.5 deliveries per hour).
15

16 43. The typical delivery was anywhere from 1 to 3 miles away from the
17 restaurant. Plaintiff estimates that the average delivery was 3 miles away (6 miles
18 roundtrip).

19 44. Because Defendant paid Plaintiff and other Delivery Drivers a gross
20 hourly wage at or around the applicable minimum wage, and because Plaintiff and other
21 Delivery Drivers incurred unreimbursed automobile expenses and other job expenses,
22 the Delivery Drivers "kicked back" to Defendant an amount sufficient to cause
23 minimum wage violations. *See* 29 C.F.R. § 531.35.
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1 45. Thus, in 2021, Defendant under-reimbursed Plaintiff at an approximate
2 rate of 36 cents per mile (\$1.20 divided by 6 miles = 20 cents per mile, 36 cents less
3 than the IRS standard mileage rate of 56 cents per mile).

4 46. Thus, while making deliveries (assuming 3.5 deliveries per hour at 6 miles
5 per delivery), Plaintiff has consistently “kicked back” to Defendant approximately \$7.56
6 per hour (\$2.16 per delivery x 3.5 deliveries per hour).

7 47. Defendant knew or should have known that it was not paying Plaintiff and
8 other Delivery Drivers sufficient minimum wages.
9

10 48. Defendant has willfully failed to pay minimum wage to Plaintiff and
11 similarly situated Delivery Drivers.
12

13 **V. REPRESENTATIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

14 49. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all previous paragraphs of this Complaint
15 as though fully incorporated in this section.
16

17 50. Plaintiff brings his claims for relief for violation of the FLSA as a
18 collective action pursuant to Section 16(b) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), on behalf
19 of all persons who were, are or will be employed by Defendant as similarly situated
20 employees at any time within the applicable statute of limitations period, who are
21 entitled to payment of the following types of damages:
22

23 A. Minimum wages for all hours worked;

24 B. Liquidated damages; and

25 C. Attorney’s fees and costs.
26

1 51. Plaintiff proposes the following collective under the FLSA:

2 **All Delivery Drivers in the last three years.**

3 52. In conformity with the requirements of FLSA Section 16(b), Plaintiff has
4 filed or will soon file a written Consent to Join this lawsuit.

5 53. The relevant time period dates back three years from the date on which
6 Plaintiff's Original Complaint—Collective Action was filed herein and continues
7 forward through the date of judgment pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 255(a), except as set forth
8 herein below.
9

10 54. The members of the proposed FLSA collective are similarly situated in
11 that they share these traits:
12

13 A. They were classified by Defendant as nonexempt from the minimum wage
14 and overtime requirements of the FLSA;
15

16 B. They had substantially similar job duties and requirements;

17 C. They were required by Defendant to incur expenses to maintain vehicles
18 for delivery of Defendant's products;

19 D. They were subject to Defendant's common policy of not reimbursing
20 Delivery Drivers for automobile expenses related to making deliveries for Defendant's
21 restaurants; and
22

23 E. They did not receive a lawful minimum wage.

24 55. Plaintiff is unable to state the exact number of the collective but believes
25 that the collective exceeds 50 persons.
26

1 56. Defendant can readily identify the members of the collective, who are a
2 certain portion of the current and former employees of Defendant.

3 57. The names and physical and mailing addresses of the probable FLSA
4 collective action plaintiffs are available from Defendant.

5 58. The email addresses of many of the probable FLSA collective action
6 plaintiffs are available from Defendant.

7
8 **VI. FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**
9 **(Individual Claim for Violation of the FLSA)**

10 59. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all previous paragraphs of this Complaint
11 as though fully incorporated in this section.

12 60. Plaintiff asserts this claim for damages and declaratory relief pursuant to
13 the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 201, *et seq.*

14 61. At all relevant times, Defendant was Plaintiff's "employer" within the
15 meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203.

16 62. At all relevant times, Defendant has been, and continues to be, an
17 enterprise engaged in commerce within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203.

18 63. 29 U.S.C. §§ 206 and 207 require any enterprise engaged in commerce to
19 pay all employees a minimum wage for all hours worked up to 40 each week and to pay
20 1.5x regular wages for all hours worked over 40 each week, unless an employee meets
21 certain exemption requirements of 29 U.S.C. § 213 and accompanying DOL regulations.
22

23 64. During the period relevant to this lawsuit, Defendant classified Plaintiff
24 as nonexempt from the overtime requirements of the FLSA.
25
26

1 65. Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff a lawful minimum wage for all hours
2 worked.

3 66. Defendant's conduct and practices, as described above, were willful,
4 intentional, unreasonable, arbitrary, and in bad faith.

5 67. By reason of the unlawful acts alleged herein, Defendant is liable to
6 Plaintiff for monetary damages, liquidated damages, and costs, including reasonable
7 attorneys' fees, for all violations that occurred within the three years prior to the filing
8 of this Complaint.
9

10
11 **VII. SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**
12 **(Collective Action Claim for Violation of the FLSA)**

13 68. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all previous paragraphs of this Complaint
14 as though fully set forth herein.

15 69. Plaintiff asserts this claim for damages and declaratory relief on behalf of
16 all similarly situated employees pursuant to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 201, *et seq.*

17 70. At all relevant times, Defendant has been, and continues to be, an
18 enterprise engaged in commerce within the meaning of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203.
19

20 71. 29 U.S.C. §§ 206 and 207 require any enterprise engaged in commerce to
21 pay all employees a minimum wage for all hours worked up to 40 each week and to pay
22 1.5x their regular wages for all hours worked over 40, unless an employee meets certain
23 exemption requirements of 29 U.S.C. § 213 and accompanying DOL regulations.

24 72. Defendant classified Plaintiff and other similarly situated employees as
25 nonexempt from the overtime provisions of the FLSA.
26

1 73. Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff and all others similarly situated a lawful
2 minimum wage for all hours worked.

3 74. Defendant knew or should have known that its actions violated the FLSA.

4 75. Defendant's conduct and practices, as described above, were willful.
5

6 76. By reason of the unlawful acts alleged herein, Defendant is liable to
7 Plaintiff and all similarly situated employees for monetary damages, liquidated damages
8 and costs, including reasonable attorney's fees provided by the FLSA for all violations
9 which occurred beginning at least three years preceding the filing of Plaintiff's initial
10 complaint, plus periods of equitable tolling.
11

12 77. Defendant has not acted in good faith nor with reasonable grounds to
13 believe its actions and omissions were not a violation of the FLSA, and, as a result
14 thereof, Plaintiff and similarly situated employees are entitled to recover an award of
15 liquidated damages in an amount equal to the amount of unpaid overtime pay described
16 above pursuant to Section 16(b) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).
17

18 78. Alternatively, should the Court find that Defendant acted in good faith in
19 failing to pay Plaintiff and the collective members as provided by the FLSA, they are
20 entitled to an award of prejudgment interest at the applicable legal rate.
21

22 **VIII. THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**
23 **(Individually Claim for Violation of the A.R.S.)**

24 79. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all previous paragraphs of this Complaint
25 as though fully incorporated in this section.
26

1 80. Plaintiff asserts this claim for damages and declaratory relief pursuant to
2 A.R.S. § 23-363.

3 81. At all relevant times, Defendant was Plaintiff's "employer" within the
4 meaning of A.R.S. § 23-363.

5 82. A.R.S. § 23-363 requires employers to pay all employees a lawful
6 minimum wage (\$12.15/hour in 20210).

7 83. Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff a sufficient minimum wage for all hours
8 worked.

9 84. Defendant's conduct and practices, as described above, were willful,
10 intentional, unreasonable, arbitrary, and in bad faith.

11 85. By reason of the unlawful acts alleged herein, Defendant is liable to
12 Plaintiff for monetary damages, liquidated damages and costs, including reasonable
13 attorney's fees provided by the A.R.S. for all violations which occurred beginning at
14 least three years preceding the filing of Plaintiff's Complaint
15

16 **IX. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

17 WHEREFORE, premises considered, Plaintiff Donald MacMillan, individually
18 and on behalf of all others similarly situated, respectfully prays that Defendant be
19 summoned to appear and to answer herein and for declaratory relief and damages as
20 follows:
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1 A. That Defendant be required to account to Plaintiff, the collective
2 members, and the Court for all of the hours worked by Plaintiff and the collective
3 members and all monies paid to them;

4 B. Certification of a collective under Section 216 of the FLSA of all
5 individuals similarly situated, as further defined in any motion for the same;
6

7 C. A declaratory judgment that Defendant's practices alleged herein violate
8 the FLSA, the A.R.S. and the attendant regulations;

9 D. Judgment for damages owed to Plaintiff and others similarly situated
10 under the FLSA, the A.R.S. and the attendant regulations;
11

12 E. Judgment for liquidated damages owed to Plaintiff and others similarly
13 situated pursuant to the FLSA, the A.R.S. and the attendant regulations;

14 F. For a reasonable attorneys' fee, costs, and pre-judgment interest; and

15 G. Such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper
16

17 DATED this 22nd day of November, 2021.

18 /s/ Courtney Lowery
19 Courtney Lowery
20 Ariz. Bar No. 036888
21 courtney@sanfordlawfirm.com
22
23
24
25
26